

January 29

Psalm 139:23-24 (NIV) ²³ Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting. **Hebrews 12:7-8 (ESV)** ⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

When I look back on my walk with Jesus, I find myself in awe of His patience. At first, I was so excited to know I was forgiven. I devoured His word and enjoyed being part of His fellowship. However, some of the passages in the Bible caused me some consternation. When David told the Lord to search and test him to reveal David's heart and anxious thoughts, my first reaction was, "I'm not going to ask that," because I knew God would do that. I felt I was doing fine and did not want to know what might be lurking in my heart and mind. So, I admired David but hesitated to follow His example.

I smile at myself now because I realize that my hesitation stemmed from the truth that there were motives, feelings, and thoughts that were hidden in my heart – hidden from me but not from God. David's desire was to be purified from any hidden sin, thought, or motive that would hinder his serving the Lord. With that prayer comes the truth that when God does reveal those hidden things, He will correct us and not condemn us. He will discipline us because He loves us. Unfortunately, most people today refuse to be disciplined as they justify every action and thought. Every day, even in the church, we see people pointing fingers at others saying all the blame falls on them. When we do that, we do not need to change; they do. However, when we ask God to search us, we know the faults lie in us and nowhere else. If we fear the Lord's discipline, then we do not belong to Him. We are illegitimate children who will have no inheritance. It is never pleasant to be disciplined, but it is so rewarding because it is evidence of the unfailing love our Lord and Savior has for us.